

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element comprising an elongate electrical conductor (1) encircled by magnetic material (2) extending along at least a part of said conductor, ~~characterised~~ the method comprising:

~~in that forming~~ at least a first sacrificial layer (10) ~~is formed~~ above and across said conductor; (1);

removing at least part of said first sacrificial layer (10) ~~is removed~~ to leave a space (12, 13) above and across said conductor; [[,]]

introducing a fluid (16) comprising magnetic nanoparticles dispersed in a liquid dispersant ~~is introduced~~ into said space (12, 13), and

removing said dispersant ~~is removed~~ leaving said magnetic nanoparticles densely packed in said space (12, 13) as at least part of said magnetic material (2).

2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in claim 1, including forming a support layer (8) with a cavity (12), forming a layer of said magnetic material (2) in said cavity (12), forming said electrical conductor (1) over said layer of said magnetic material, and forming said first sacrificial layer (10) overlapping said electrical conductor and said layer of said magnetic material.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element comprising an elongate electrical conductor (1) encircled by magnetic material (2) extending along at least a part of said conductor, ~~characterised~~ the method comprising:

~~in that forming~~ first (10) and second (7) sacrificial layers ~~are formed~~ across said conductor (1) respectively above and below the conductor; [[,]]

removing at least parts of said sacrificial layers (7, 10) ~~are removed~~ to leave a space (12) encircling said conductor; [[,]]

introducing a fluid (16) comprising magnetic nanoparticles dispersed in a liquid dispersant ~~is introduced~~ into said space (12), and

removing said dispersant ~~is removed~~ leaving said magnetic nanoparticles densely packed in said space (12) as at least part of said magnetic material (2).

4. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in claim 3, including forming a support layer (8) with a cavity (12), forming said second sacrificial layer (7) in said cavity, forming said electrical conductor (1) over said second sacrificial layer (7), and forming said first sacrificial layer (10) overlapping said electrical conductor and said second sacrificial layer.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein said support layer (8) comprises electrically insulating material, and said conductor (1) is deposited over said second sacrificial layer (7) and at least part of said layer of insulating material (8).
6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first sacrificial layer (10) is surrounded by a further layer of insulating material (11) formed over the first said layer (8) of insulating material.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said sacrificial layer or layers (7, 10) comprise an organic material.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said sacrificial layer or layers (7, 10) comprise a photo-resist material, and producing said sacrificial layer or layers includes forming a layer or layers of said photo-resist material, exposing said photo-resist material in a pattern defining the geometry of said sacrificial layers and selectively removing photo-resist material, and removing said parts of said sacrificial layers comprises dissolving them in a solvent.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a further layer (14) of sacrificial material is formed above said conductor with at least one aperture (15) corresponding to said space (12) to contain said fluid (16) before removal of said dispersant.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, and comprising forming a protective layer (19) over said magnetic material (2).
11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said magnetic nanoparticles are ferromagnetic.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said magnetic material ~~(2)~~ presents an easy axis of magnetisation extending along said conductor ~~(1)~~.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein removing said dispersant comprises evaporating it.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical circuit element as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, and comprising applying a magnetic field to said magnetic material while said dispersant is being removed.
15. (Currently Amended) An electrical circuit element produced by a method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.
16. (Currently Amended) A meander-type inductive element comprising:

a plurality of juxtaposed substantially parallel electrical circuit elements as claimed in claim 15 and at least one electrical interconnection between adjacent ends of the electrical conductors ~~(1)~~ of respective ones of said juxtaposed electrical circuit elements.